THE

Western Conference News Letter

Volume 3 JUNE, 1907 Number 4

Published monthly, except July and August, by the
WESTERN UNITARIAN CONFERENCE
175 Dearborn St., Chicago. Telephone, Central 1917
Rev. W. M. Backus, Secretary.
Subscriptions, twenty-five cents per year.

Entered at Chicago, Ill, as second class mail matter.

This is the Conference number of The News Letter. It contains a report of the meeting at Detroit. The purpose of this little paper is that should act as a messenger between our churches and thereby help to establish a community of interest among our independent congregations. Necessarily a report cannot convey the splendid earnestness and fine enthusiasm that prevailed at our meetings, but it can give some idea of what transpired. It is meant that the last number of this paper before the vacation period should be devoted to so large a subject of interest to Western Unitarians as our Conference session. It is our hope that the influence of the Detroit Conference will sprad until it will cause a wave of enthusiasm for our cause that even the vacation period cannot break and that next September will find our people eager for renewed effort.

THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN UNITARIAN CONFERENCE

(Held at Detroit, Mich., May 13-16, 1907.)

Conferences vary. This was a good one. That it was a happy and inspiring meeting was felt by all. The joy of fellowship was evident in the faces, manner and tones of voices of the delegates. Those who met there are not only widely separated from each other, but they bear the stigma of heresy when at home. At the conference they realized with deep and genuine joy that they are not alone. The discussions revealed several striking facts. One of these is that our leaders have thought their way through the fogs; they know perfectly well what they want to do. They understand that in this specialized world our church has its particular function, its own peculiar work; and that while they help all good causes, their main efforts must be given to their special task. There is no uncertainity, no feeling around for a gospel to preach. All have a message and rejoice to find that it is substantially the same.

Then, to one who detests that form of mysticism which is simply confusion of thought and inadequate power of expression, most of the speeches were a deep delight, in that they were marvels of clearness. For lucidity and precision of statement they would be hard to excel. Perhaps no address presented was in this respect more excellent than that on the Brahmo-Somaj, by Professor G. Subba Rau. It was a model statement, comprehensive, terse, clear, adequate, judicious, with not a sentence wasted.

Another thing that impressed me was the substantial unity among these apostles of liberty. Their form of statement was never the same, for as thinkers they came from many directions but that their views are convergent was clear. This shows that if intelligent men are given liberty, it is needless to try to enforce unity, for this comes about in time of itself. No authority, however great, could conceivably have produced the real unity of free minds witnessed at this Detroit meeting. The voices were real voices, not echoes, and yet in spite of differences of timber, the message was the same.

Furthermore, I was impressed with the extreme devotion of the meeting to the idea and spirit of democracy. As liberals, the delegates know their peculiar weakness and realize their need of organization, and yet they fear the centralizing tendency of every organization. Not only was there expressed criticism of this tendency in our national body and its administrative agencies, but one of the longest discussions at the meeting was over a proposition, the aim of which was to make the Western Conference more democratic, more truly representative than it is. This feeling found expression in the conference sermon by Rev. John W. Day of St. Louis. It is strong and must be reckoned with, although as one of the delegates said, our differences of opinion are entirely within the possibilities of friendly adjustment. The preacher very frankly pointed out our faults in the way of lack of interest in others, in missionary efforts, in our inadequate presentation and our failure to appeal as successfully to the whole man as we do to the intelligence, and he declared that our success depends upon our ability to vividly present and to inspire vital and real faith in the living God. In the part of this discourse which aroused most comment, Mr. Day said:

"There are signs that the reaction against individualism is seeing its best days. Improvements in machinery do not of themselves furnish motive power. What is called organization cannot dispense with the deep vitalities which alone make union organic. Organization never creates them, they create organization. The old individualism was, indeed, imperfect in co-ordination, but the forced production of the forms of co-operation cannat compensate for any loss of independence and responsibility. We do not want a Unitarian Church of America. We shall not outgrow the need of Unitarian Churches in America. The center of denominational life is not in any association nor in any group of officers, however efficient they may become. The center of power is not in any group of churches, however strong and benevolent tney may be. The measure and source of denominational strength is in the church which denominate it..

Our national association is neither national nor ours. It can become neither until it is governed by the churches

of the country instead of by those which furnish the most life members.

We are face to face with a tendency which must be recognized with impartial and dispassionate candor. It is the tendency to substitute machinery for life, members for quality—to produce churches instead of the spirit which produces churches. A stronger union among our churches we need, but we do not need to unionize them. The kind of centralization now in process is fraught with great dangers. It imperils church democracy. It denominationalizes our religion instead of religionizing our denomination.

The transition from efficient leadership to harmful domination is unnoticed so long as results indicate vigor and activity. The harm comes when churches look outside rather than within themselves for their strength, when the center of power is displaced. The source of denominational strength is in the churches themselves and when they look for it in any other center they deteriorate. If this were more thoroughly recognized and adopted, it would not be so hard to increase our denominational spirit. If every church in our fellowship realized its opportunity and labored for the kingdom of God in its midst we should not need so many appeals for loyalty to the common cause.

The Tuesday morning session began with an address of welcome by Mr. John Bagley. Dr. Thayer, a vice-president of the conference was in the chair. This is not the place to give the facts presented in the report of the secretary of the conference, Rev. W. M. Backus, but his survey of our churches and the work of the past year seemed wise and hopeful. Very manifest was the affection of the conference for its secretary. There were many expressions of appreciation of his self-sacrificing spirit and of the high quality of his work. After the reports, Rev. F. M. Bennett discussed "Unitarian Missionary Methods." He considers that the Opera House and brass band method is a failure, that the Postoffice Mission is very effective, but that the most important of all our missionary agencies is our college town churches. The ministers in university communities preach to a constant procession of young men and women whose minds are forming and whom he can permanently influence. Mr. Bennett thinks that we ought to buy land in growing cities for churches which may be established in the future, but above all that our main effort should be to foster the spirit which will bring both the needed men and the needed money.

The Hindu, Professor Rau, told us that a race consciousness is developing and that a need is felt for a universal religion. Such a need cannot be satisfied by Christianity in its present form. The Occidental consciousness is not fitted to produce a universal religion, for it is too objective, religion being essentially a subjective experience. For this work the Hindu is fitted by temperament and by the naturally universal character of his mind. Western Christianity needs to be complemented by the mystic subjectivity of the East, which in its turn would derive benefit from the influence and teaching of the west.

A paper on "The Distinctive Features of Unitarianism," was presented by Rev. F. A. Gilmore, and in the discussion, which was led by Rev. F. C. S. Wicks, neither the ancient platitudes nor disagreements appeared. Mr. Gilmore made it plain that while the individualism of our people in church affairs is their weakness, their devotion to freedom is their strength. In our pulpits a thoughtful and sensible man may utter himself on any subject under heaven that pertains to the welfare of the human race. We are now and have always been pioneers and when we carry our gospel to others, it is not to convert but to confer, it is to learn as well as to teach. The voluntary withdrawal of our missionaries from Japan after the Japanese Unitarian movement had been started was likened to the evaculation of Cuba by the American armies after the island had been delivered from its oppressors, an event unique in the history of the world. Mr. Wicks distinguished between Unitarianism as a belief in the doctrines which Unitarians generally do as a matter of fact believe, the familiar ideas of the Fatherhood of God, etc., and liberty, and insisted that it is the liberty and not the belief which makes us Unitarian. He thought that we ought to beware of even the appearance of a doctrinal condition of fellowship.

The distinction having been made between the churches of authority and the free churches, Mr. Blake pointed out that there is a third kind of church which tries to be both the other kinds at once, a mixed type which is unsatisfactory from every point of view. The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Rihbany, Ferguson, Marsh, McCarthy and Dodson. Dr. Rexford was present and took part in the conference. He said that the work of the Unitarianism has been to restore the consciousness of God in the human soul, that no people have a greater opportunity than we, and that his word to us is "to go right on." "We have," he said, "more constituency and more sympathy than we suppose. We are to restore the meaning of the natural by removing the supernatural. When this has been done, nature and God will still be here and life will be larger."

The afternoon session closed with a vesper service led by Rev. Florence Buck. This, in its quiet beauty, in its repose and uplife, coming just after the earnest and tonic discussions, seemed all that such a service could be.

On Tuesday evening there was a platform meeting. The subject was "The International Council," the speakers being Rev. C. W. Wendte, secretary of the Council; President F. C. Southworth, and Rev. J. H. Crooker. It would seem that this meeting, together with the lectures of Mr. Wendte in various Western cities, ought to increase local interest by showing the larger relations and significance of our work. The council was represented as an attempt to federate the religious liberalism of the world. It was said that the call now is for a religion with a world horizon, and that the hour has struck when liberals all over the world must stand together and criticise by creation. Religion is not an individual but a corporate life, and of this life the church is the organization. We must simplify our message, unite our forces and multiply our enthusiasm.

The Wednesday session began with a devotional meeting led by Rev. F. A. Weil, assisted by Messrs. Marsh and Hawley. Rev. E. A. Horton then addressed the conference on the Sunday School. Those who have heard Mr. Horton know how unreportable he is, how impossible it is in a few words to give an adequate or satisfactory account of the impression his addresses make. Among other things, se said that preaching is not obsolete, and that Roosevelt and Bryan are the greatest preachers in the United States. The president treats great questions in a moral and religious way, and such treatment is desired by the people.

The church has a great task: it is to combine knowledge with enthusiasm, ideals with common sense, criticism with faith, and toleration with conviction. We must learn how to be liberal and yet intense.

Rev. J. Vila Blake then gave an intensely interesting account of an ideal of Sunday School work which has been consistently pursued for many years. This address also is one that cannot well be summarized, as those who heard it know. The speaker said he would like to take half of one of the five school days for religious instruction, but as this is at present impossible, he has done his best under the actual conditions, and is entirely satisfied with the working of his plan. His success has been as great as the conditions permit. Of the forty-five minutes at his disposal he gives fifteen to worship, five to a sermon and the rest to the lesson. Nothing but the highest motive is appealed to, there being no prizes, banners or rewards. The discipline is strict, and the same hymns and services are used year after year. In the worship and instruction there is alsolute fidelity to natural religion. The service book could be used by the inhabitants of Mars. Religion is carefully distinguished from history. The address was listened to with great interest, the more so because it was the account, not of a failure, but of a success.

Perhaps the most masterly and searching paper read at the conference was that of Rev. Geo. R. Gebauer on the Race Problem. The subject was not promising, and had not this writer's duty detained him, he might have followed his inclination to use the afternoon in seeing Detroit. When this theme was treated at the conference three years ago, there was much more heat than light, and the event left a painful impression. But this discussion, though warm enough, was luminous, and even those who disagreed with Mr. Gebauer and Mr. Jones of Topeka, who followed with an address based not on reading but on a varied and interesting experience, gladly acknowledged the force and ability with which the speakers presented their views. Some felt that other things ought to be said that were not said, and everybody apparently wanted to speak. By a majority of one the conference voted down a resolution asking the directors to put this subject on the program of the next conference. Among those who spoke were Rev. Eleanor Gordon, Rev. H. W. Foote, and Rev. Dr. Rexford. Mr. Gebauer strongly deprecated the laissez-faire policy in dealing with the race question, nor would he leave it to the south alone. The north and west must help. He pointed out the growing antagonism between the races and the fact that this springs from the danger of amalgamation. The south is right in its ideal and end, the separation and continued purity of the races, though the means it uses are to be condemned. There must be no inhumanity, no discrimination before the bar of justice, no inequality before the law, whatever that law may be. The great problem is to satisfy ethical feeling and at the same time not to violate a race instinct on which civilization depends. The black man needs education, but the white man needs it more, for the latter must be fitted for the leadership and tutorship of the weaker race. In our pity for the black man we must never forget the civilization which an infusion of his blood would weaken or destroy. For the real question is not what is to become of the black man, but what of the future of the white? The race makes the land. Whether a country shall blossom as the rose or be a wilderness depends on the race that lives in it. When the old heroic races disappeared from Egypt, Greece and Rome what followed was only the inevitable result.

But is not man a man? Yes, and wood is wood; but maple is never mahogany, and no veneer can do more than change the surface. The race prejudice is strongest in the south because there the danger is greatest. Whe ever negroes are present in large numbers, whether north or south, east or west, the white reaction is the same

Rev. J. H. Jones, a man of southern birth and breeding, gave the discussion some local color. He expressed his admiration for the Georgia Cracker's daughter who would not leave the cotton field to marry a man, only one-fifteenth negro, even though he were a millionaire. Not being willing to degrade her race for wealth, she is incomparably more admirable than the heiresses who unite a sound stock with that of a degenarate nobility for the sake of a title.

The discussion showed that no question is felt to be more vital than this, and program committees looking for a subject that will rouse the most blase and make everybody want to talk will do well not to forget this fact.

Although the undersigned would not have anyone think that he is reckless with adjectives, he is going to risk one more. He is not afraid that he will be accused of a tendency to hyperbole by any of the 121 present at the closing banquet on Thursday evening when he says that it was a delightful meeting. We are tempted sometimes to think that all stories are old and that the chestnut is the most prolific of trees. This banquet showed, however, that originality and spontaneity are still to be found in the world. Mr. Stuart said truly that he made a great find when he discovered Mr. Ralph Stone, as toastmaster, and Messrs. Thayer, Horton, Marsh, Rihbany and Miss Gordon gave, with an abundance of fun and merriment, about the right proportion of the serious for an after dinner speech. The last word was spoken by Rev. Reed Stuart, who was heard all too seldom in the conference. It was an expression of friendliness, of cordial appreciation of his brethren, and of hope for the cause. It is not hard to understand the devotion of the Detroit people to their minister.

On Thursday morning there was a Ministers' meeting which discussed 'The Relation of the Minister to Social Forces," and which was addressed by Brigadier Lamb of the Salvation Army, and this was followed by a luncheon at the Addison Hotel. Thus closed the Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Western Unitarian Conference. The sixty-seven delegates were cordially received by the Detroit people, and they will retain happy memories of the way in which they were entertained. The one who makes this report likes to think that he speaks not for himself alone, but that he expresses the feeling for all, in saying that he returns home glad that he went, feeling a benefit that he cannot describe, and thinking more highly and more warmly of his colleagues and fellow-workers than ever before. *G. R. Dodson*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

(*Receipts.*)

From churches by treasurer	$1801 38
From churches by secretary	731 40
Invested Funds	1542 97
Individuals	4 00
Basket collection	22 04
	$4101.79

Deficit for the year		$111 38
Excess receipts 1905-6		471 14
Deficit receipts 1906-7		111 38
		$359 76
Transferred to Endowment Fund as per resolution	$250 00	
Balance in Treasury		109 76

(Expenditures.)

Conference, 1906	3 67 22	
Secretary's salary	2500 00	
Secretary's expenses	503 23	
Office rent	600 00	
Office Expenses	153 25	
Clerk's Salary	300 00	
Unity Publishing Committee expenses in excess of receipts	70 57	
News Letter expenses in excess of receipts	13 90	
American Unitarian Association	5 00	
		$4213 17

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CHURCHES.

Adrian, Minn.	$ 2 50
Alton, Illinois	25 00
Ann Arbor, Michigan	20 00
Aurora, Illinois	7 00
Bloomington, Illinois	20 00
Buda, Illinois	10 00
Burlington, Iowa	10 00
Champaign, Illinois	10 00
Chicago-Unity	100 00
Third	50 00
All Souls	25 00
Messiah	250 00
Swedish	5 00
Cincinnati, Ohio	25 00
Cleveland, Ohio	216 14
Decorah, Iowa	10 50
Des Moines, Iowa	15 00
Detroit, Michigan	50 00
Duluth, Minnesota	10 00
Evanston, Illinois	12 50
Geneseo, Illinois	38 00
Geneva, Illinois	10 00
Gimli, Manitoba	10 00
Grand Haven, Michigan	5 00
Grand Rapids, Michigan, All Souls	10 00
Greeley, Colorado	10 00
Hanska, Minnesota	5 00
Hinsdale, Illinois	25 00
Hobart, Indiana	10 00
Huboldt, Iowa	10 00
Indianapolis, Indiana	10 00
Jackson, Michigan	3 00
Kalamazoo, Michigan	20 00
Kansas City, Missouri	10 00
Kenosha, Wisconsin	20 00
Keokuk, Iowa	10 00
Lawrence, Kansas	10 00
Lincoln, Nebraska	30 00
Luverne, Minnesota	10 00
Madison, Wisconsin	25 00
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	133 44
Minneapolis-First	25 00
Nazareth	5 00
Moline, Illinois	10 00
Monroe, Wisconsin	10 00
Neillsville, Wisconsin	4 18
Ord, Nebraska	10 00
Perry, Iowa	10 00
Pueblo, Colorado	10 00
Quincy, Illinois	25 00
Rockford, Illinois	20 00
Rock Rapids, Iowa	2 50
St. Cloud, Minnesota	5 00
St. Louis-Unity	100 00
Messiah	108 00
St. Joseph, Missouri	10 00
St. Paul, Minnesota	70 00
Serena, Illinois	10 00
Sheffield, Illinois	10 00
Shelbyville, Illinois	5 07
Sherwood, Michigan	4 50
Sioux City, Iiwa	10 00
Streator, Illinois	10 00
Toledo, Ohio	25 00
Topeka, Kansas	9 05
Washta, Iowa	2 00
Total	$1,798.38

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE CONFERENCE

At this meeting, the Fifty-fifth of the Western Conference, we certainly feel that it is one of the most helpful, inspiring and progressive conferences that we have ever had and that its success in a large measure is due to the splendid hospitality extended by this church and by all the good friends of Detroit. We also wish especially to mention the thorough and efficient work done by the Hospitality Committee and by the Palmer Club in making every one feel comfortable, and we shall go away feeling that we have been splendidly entertained and that we shall want to come again.

It is the sense of the directors of the Western Unitarian Conference that payments made for life membership in the Conference should be applied to the Endowment Fund of the Conference. The receipts by the Treasurer in the past two years having been in excess of the expenses, be it resolved that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to apply such balance in the treasury as he may see fit to the payment into the Endowment Fund for such life membership as in the past have been received and spent for current expenses and that hereafter all payments for life memberships shall be credited to the said Endowment Fund.

Resolved, That the Western Unitarian Conference heartily approves the action of its Board of Directors in persuading the Rev. Wilson M. Backus to continue his office as secretary, and that we hereby gratefully pledge to him our loyalty and co-operation in the work of this organization.

Resolved, That Rev. W. M. Backus, Rev. Frank Gilmore and Rev. Minot O. Simons shall represent the Western Unitarian Conference at the meetings of the American Unitarian Association at Boston, May 20-25.

Resolved, That a committee of three to be known as a Finance and Endowment Committee, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Western Unitarian Conference, the members of the first committee to be elected for one, two and three years respectively, the

outgoing member to be elected annually. The business of this committee shall be to devise ways and means of increasing the Endowment Fund of the Western Conference.

That the Conference instructs the Board of Directors to appoint a committee of five, of whom the Secretary of the Conference shall be one, to consider and report upon a method of nomination and election of officers and directors; such committee to report to the Board of Directors at least three months before the next annual meeting; and that the report of said committee with such additions or changes as the Board of Directors may recommend, be printed in the Western Conference News Letter, (a marked copy of which shall be sent to each church in the Conference at least one month previous to the annual meeting), and presented to this Conference for action at the next annual meeting.

Resolved, that the salary of Wilson M. Backus, the present secretary of the Conference, be increased from $2 500.00 to $3,000.00 per year.

Rev. Jasper L. Douthitt, Shelbyville, Ills.,

Dear Brother:—At a session of the Western Unitarian Conference held in this city forty-five years ago, you were ordained to the Christian ministry, and with pleasure this Conference receives kindly greetings from you as a veteran in the cause of truth and righteousness. For these many years you have held aloft and bravely defended the banner of our Liberal Faith under very adverse and discouraging circumstances, and we gladly return to you a message of good will, and pray that you may evermore enjoy the rest you have so well earned, and that the evening of your life may be pleasant and happy.

Faithfully yours,
W. M. Backus, Secretary.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

President—Mr. Morton D. Hull, Chicago, Ills.
Vice Presidents—Rev. George A. Thayer, Cincinnati, O.
Mr. John N. Bagley, Detroit, Mich.
Secretary—Rev. Wilson M. Backus, Chicago.
Treasurer—Mr. Herbert W. Brough, Chicago.
Directors to May, 1910—Mr. F. A. Delano, Rev. Frank Gilmore, Mr. J. W. Hosmer, Mrs. S. F. Lynn, Mr. Herbert W. Brough, Rev. F. M. Bennett, Rev. Florence Buck.
Director to serve to May, 1908, to take the place of Rev. J. C. Hodgins, resigned—Mr. Mason of Milwaukee. Wis.

AMONG THE CHURCHES.

Green Bay, Wis.—Rev. E. C. Smith of Hinsdale, Ill., has received and accepted a call from the Union Congregational church. Both Mr. Smith and the church are to be congratulated.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Rev. J. H. Jones has resigned from the pulpit of Unity church to devote all of his time to the work in Topeka. The people of this society very much regret his departure as they feel that his work has been of great benefit to their society, especially th pulpit work.

Champaign, Ill.—Rev. J. H. Crooker, D. D., preached for this newly organized society, Sunday, May 12. He has many friends and asquaintances among the faculty because of his having served our churches at Madison and Ann Arbor. It was a pleasure for the society to have a fraternal visitor.

Rev. C. W. Wendte reports splendid success in his meetings in the interest of the International Council on his western tour. He has visited Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Chicago, Madison, Milwaukee, Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor. He was also present at the Detroit Conference. A wave of interest seems to be sweeping through our churches concerning this meeting which is of so much moment to liberal religion.

Humboldt, Ia.—This Society ordained to the ministry and installed as its pastor, Mr. Nathan W. Tupper, Tuesday evening, May 7. This service marked the attainment of a great desire on Mr. Tupper's part to become a minister. Various circumstances have conspired to keep him heretofore from the ambition of his life, but when it became possible, even through it involved a great financial sacrifice, he at once accepted the opportunity. At the service of ordination the orthordox ministers in Humbodt assisted Rev. Fred V. Hawley and Rev. Eleanor E. Gordon of our fellowship. Mr. Hawley preached the sermon and Miss Gordon, who is secretary of the Iowa Conference, extended the right hand of fellowship and gave the charge to the minister. It was an impressive service, made so by the deep feeling manifested by the people of the church and their chosen minister. The Humboldt church had Mr. Tremain for its spokesman in the service. Before the ordination there was held the annual church meeting and after it a reception was given to the visiting ministers.

Lithia, Ill.—Brother Douthit is busily engaged in preparing the program for the annual chautauqua held here. The promise is that it will exceed in value all previous meetings. The improvements carried out upon the grounds render the beautiful, restful natural environment of the spring's still more attractive. Any one who wants a wholesome, pleasant outing cannot do better than to go to the Lithia Spring Chautauqua which holds its assembly August 10-26, this year.

ALLIANCE NOTES.

Again the Annual meeting of the Western Conference has been preceded by a day given to the National Alliance, beginning at 10 a. m., May 13, with the regular monthly meeting of the National Board, Miss Low, the president, in the chair. To this session, held in the Sunday School room of the Detroit Unitarian Church, all Alliance members were admitted. The minutes of the previous meeting read by the recording secretary, Mrs. Fifield, revealed to all not familiar with National Alliance activities, the varied and earnest nature of the business transacted at these meetings and the interest in all, even the most remote, of its 358 Branches. Among the most important matters considered by the Board meetings is that of appeals from new or struggling Branches for assistance. Those of Rock Rapids, Iowa, Elizabeth, N. J., and Flatbush, L. I., reported favorably by the Committee on Appeals, it was voted should be laid before the Branches. Owing to the distance from other Illinois Branches, a motion was carried, to place those at Alton and Quincy, Illinois, under the directorship of Mrs. Mersereau of Missouri, and her plan of forming an Associate Alliance of all Branches in St. Louis, Quincy and Alton was approved. The Postoffice Mission was discussed at some length. The great value of this work is never questioned, Miss Low's experience in the south furnishing much evidence of this. But the difficulty

of finding the correspondents is ever present. Advertising in the daily papers, in trade and agricultural journals, in magazines. offering Unitarian literature or sermons, adding a few lines to the Sunday church notice, all these had been tried with varying success. The isolated position of the three liberal branches of the Y. W. C. A. was brought up. These three, in Boston, Cambridge and Chicago, at much loss to themselves, have refused to join the national Y. W. C. A., owing to its orthodox platform. It was urged that the liberal women should *give* a more generous support than heretofore. Among many other matters pertaining to National Alliance work which came up for discussion were the Cheerful Letter Committees, the Study Class Section, now boasting forty-seven teachers and sixty-two subjects, the growing missionary work in the south and the Memorial and Membership Funds which in time will furnish a small but steady income for denominational purposes.

At 12.35 the Board meeting adjourned and one hundred Alliance members sat down to luncheon in the pleasant parlors of the church. Following this most enjoyable repast, Mrs. Marks said a few words of greeting in behalf of the Detroit and other Michigan Alliances, then calling upon Rev. Florence Buck of Kenosha, Mrs. Phelan of Providence, Mrs. Mersereau of St. Louis, Mrs. Doolittle of Milwaukee, Mrs. Bradley of Cleveland and Mrs. Delano of Chicago, each of whom in the purposes, the performances and the possibilities of spoke briefly. The general tone was of earnest belief in the Alliance.

At 2:45 the general meeting of the Alliance was called to order in the main auditorium of the church, by Mrs. Delano, vice-president of the Western States. After the opening hymn, the invocation was offered by Rev. Florence Buck. On behalf of the Branch of the Detroit church Mrs. Reed Stuart, with very happy illustrations, proffered the hospitality of the church and its homes. Miss Low was then introduced who emphasized the national character of the organization for which she stood, this to be maintained in spite of the difficulties attending so widely scattered a membership. To the end of bringing Branches into closer touch with national officers and directors, Miss Low visited the south, finding everywhere people ready for the message the Alliance brings, resenting any incincerity but eager to discover the truth. Mrs. Fifild spoke of the special purpose of the National Alliance, which is to strengthen our churches and to extend a knowledge of our faith, an aim in itself binding together the Branches which are now found in four-fifths of our churches. No matter pertaining to denominational work is foreign to the Board, among whose members are some of the best and strongest types of womanhood. The great problem of the Alliance is how to perserve the independence of the Branches and yet reap the advantage of organized work. Mrs. Davis, corresponding secretary and, one may say, delegate at large to all ambitious and struggling Branches, gave enthusiastic expression to the growing strength and ideals of Alliance work, claimed to the credit of the Alliance a good share in many new churches established and deplored the action of too many men and women, who, believing in a cause, wait for it to succeed before giving their countenance and support. Many illustrations were given of the needs which the Alliance is constantly hearing and answering. Following these addresses, the discussion of the subject, "Alliance Duties and Privileges," was opened by Mrs. Bradley of Cleveland, who talked of the Alliance work as made effective through its committees, Hospitality, Philanthropic, Study Class and Denominational, the latter in the opinion of the speaker being of the least general interest. On this point, Mrs. Davis later took issue, declaring "Unitarian and Unitarian Ideals" a constant challege to our loyal and enthusiastic support. Among the many others were Mrs. Mersereau, who urged the duty of bringing our Unitarianism to the light of day; Rev. Miss Buck, who mentioned the sad case of those Alliances so prosperous as not to need the visits of National officers and therefore deprived of them, also the duty of making the most of our Alliance privileges; Rev, Mr. Vail, who gave a most encouraging account of the growth of the church recently established at Champaign, Ills., and its Branch Alliance; Rev. Mr. Marsh, who hoped some way might be devised to bring the widely separated Branches of Nebraska into closer touch with officers of the national body and directors; and Miss Low, who in answer to this, said that if all Alliance members would join the national body this would be possible and escepially might the inspiring and energizing presence of Mrs. Davis be much in the field.

According to the roll call, there were present 108, representing twenty-seven Branches in sixteen states, from Massachusetts to California.

Marian M. Lewis.

The spring meeting of the Missouri Valley Associate Alliance 'South' was held at Lawrence, Kansas on Friday, April 26th with fifty members present. The reports from the Branches showed very plainly that the work of the Associate Alliance has not been in vain—one delegate reporting that from a membership of three in her Branch with no report she was proud to say they now have seventeen members and had had a most pleasant and profitable winter.

Another Branch reported an increase of ten in the membership.

A discussion followed the reports on "Young People and their Relation to the Church." This was lead by Mrs. Bennett, who gave some of the reasons the young people had given to her for going to other churches Namely:

1—"We do not get out and hustle for them."

2—We hold no revivals, no sensational emotional methods to create membership."

3—"Parents of other denominations expect their children to join the church and children are instructed by parents in religious preparation."

4—"We let our children go to other Sunday schools "

5—"Young people are attracted to Episcopal churches by the service.

6—"Children feel that numbers give a comfortable assurance of respectability and go where their school friends go."

An informal discussion of the subject brought out some interesting suggestions. Among them "that the young people should be made to feel their partnership in everything connected with the church, should help in some financial way in the regular church work.

A plea for evening service was made and also for a christening service, which would make the child a mem-

ber until such a time as he withdraws his name himself.

After a very bountiful luncheon served by the ladies of the local branch, the annual meeting was held.

The usual reports were given and the election of officrs resulted in the unanimous re-election of Mrs. Stevens, as president, and of the election of Mrs. Linaley, of Lawrence, as secretary and treasurer. Following the election and appointments was a discussion on "Uni. tarians in Phil anthropy" lead by Rev. Mr. Bennett of Lawrence and participated in by Mrs. Day of Topeka, and Miss Adams of Lawrence.

They brought out such names as Channing, Dorothy Dix, George William Curtis, Henry Burke, Henry W. Bellows, Dr. Hale, Susan B. Anthony and Clara Burton and societies such as the Boston Young Men's Christian Union. "The Lend a Hand Club" and "The National First Aid Association of America." At the close of this discussion, Mrs. Stevens presented the cause of the society for destitute mothers with infants" which has been a success in the east and which has been started in Kansas City in the past year or two, with the hope that success awaits it in the West also. The closing feature of the day was a musical program by the Sunday school orchestra of Lawrence. A most enjoyable feature after a rising vote of thanks to Lawrence and the singing of America, lead by the orchestra. We adjourned to meet in Kansas City in January.

Mary P. Smith, Secretary pro tem.

Chicago.—The fifth regular meeting of the Associate Alliance was held on Thursday, May 2nd, at Hinsdale, with a good attendance. On account of illness, our president, Mrs. Backus, was not able to be present. Mrs. Smith, of Hinsdals, presided. The meeting was opened by the singing of a hymn, after which the minutes of the April meeting were read and approved with treasurer's report. A letter was read from Mrs. Husted, president of the Alliance at Harrietta, acknowledging money order, this being the second one sent to the church. A letter was also read from Mrs. Beebe, of Geneva, inviting the Associate Alliance to meet with them, as their guests, on June 6th. Mr. Backus announced that Mr. Wendte, Secretary of the International Council, would speak at headquarters, on Monday, May 6th, at 4 p. m. Miss Clara A. Hughes gave a report on the Religion News, speaking principally in regard to the separation of Church and State in France. She gave extracts from papers by ex-Premier Coombes, and Abbe Klein. Mr. Eugene Lies, General Secretary of the Chicago Bureau of Charities, was the next speaker. He defined the old and finer meaning of charity to mean love. Various aspects of charity were considered and a number of principles that underlie the work. Mrs. Viers, Chairman of the Library Committee of the Y. W. C. A. gave a very interesting account of that organization. It stands for the protection of young women. The main rooms are on Michigan avenue, with branches on the south and west sides. The Library in connection contains three thousand volumes. Extension work is a branch of the work of this organization. The speaker in her closing remarks emphasized particularly the liberal platform of the Y. W. C. A. Miss Lewis was to have spoken on the School Children's Aid Society, but on account of the lateness of the hour this paper was postponed until the next meeting. One member from each Branch was appointed on the nominating committee. Mrs. Dudley reported for the Fellowship Supper, on April 7th. Three delegates at large were appointed from this body to visit the Y. W. C. A., 288 Michigan avenue, at its next meeting, May 9th at 10 a. m. After a collection for telephone was taken the meeting adjourned for luncheon. In the afternoon, many went to the woods, while others enjoyed a drive about town, thus bringing to a close a most enjoyable day.

Emma C. Baker, Secretary.

Chicago.—The Associate Alliance will be entertained by the Geneva Branch, Thursday, June 6th. The hour of the meeting is 11 a. m. There will be reports of the Cheerful Letter Exchange, Postoffice Mission Committees and of the Branches. There will be the annual election of officrs.

REPORT FROM OHIO.

The Ohio Branches have had an active and interesting winter. In Cincinnati the *Alliance* of the First Church has devoted the regular monthly meeting to the discussion of problems of Child Labor, stimulated by the sessions in that city in December of the National Child Labor Committee, of which Dr. Felix Adler is chairman. The work of leading children's societies of the city was set forth by representatives, severally, of the Home for the Friendless, the United Jewish Charities, the juvenile court and the Boy's Home with an address by the local chairman of the Child Labor Committee. The work of the Sewing Society has been chiefly the care of families placed under the charge of the church women by the Associated Charities. The *P. O. Mission* by judicious advertising, has reached a select, if small constituency over a wide range of the country, besides distributing considerable numbers of tracts from the Church Tract Table.

The *Cheerful Letter* which keeps in circulation three libraries in sparsely settled regions of the far west carries on correspondence with several isolated persons in the south and west, and has helped to self-supporting occupation, two or three young men and women in distant parts of the Union. The Alliance has answered with gifts twenty-two appeals from Church Fair Committees, and has given five or ten dollars, each, to fifteen other causes, denominational or philonthropic; besides buying a new carpet and church cushions for the auditorium and contributing three hundred dollars towards the church choir fund.

The Alliance of *Unity Church*, Cincinnati, has held regular meetings. This brave little band of ten women have made garments for charity, done P. O. Mission work and have read Unitarian literature.

In *Marietta* the energies of the winter have been devoted to raising money for a new church organ; the Alliance uniting with the whole society in this effort. During the last few weeks disastrous floods have wrought much havoc. Several inches of water stood in the parsonage, and in the auditorium of the church. The Sunday School rooms in the basement were completely filled with water. This will make much expense and confusion in the church work. It will require a struggle to raise the necessary funds for repairing and is a severe blow to the people, but they are facing it bravely. We all send greetings of sympathy to Marietta.

In *Toledo* the usual weekly afternoons for sewing have taken place this year, with a cup of tea at the close of

them; and once a month an all-day meeting with a luncheon which is much enjoyed and largely attended. The business meeting follows this, then reading from Word and Work and the literary program which this year has been devoted to Mr. Sunderland's book on "The Bible." It has been greatly enjoyed and appreciated. The Alliance has assisted in the refurnishing of the church parlors, has made and distributed about one hundred and fifty garments and has responded to all appeals for money and articles for bazaars.

The *Cleveland Church* has just completed its final subscription to the church building fund, and the beautiful new edifice is entirely free from debt. Towards this fund the Alliance has given three thousand dollars inside of three years, the donation of the past year being one thousand five hundred and fifty dollars. A total sum of $2,322, has been raised this year by this energetic branch, of which two hundred dollars have been subscribed to various appeals issued by the National Alliance.

The Beneficent Committee report over two hundred garments made and distributed. The P. O. Mission has sent out three thousand sermons, papers and post-cards, with ninety names on the list. One hundred names stand upon the Alliance membership list with an average attendance of thirty-five. All day meetings are held three times a month, the afternoon sessions devoted twice a month to the consideration of Cleveland Charities and Philanthropies, a continuation of last year's program. The Day Nurseries, the Home for Crippled Children, the Y. W. C. A., the work of the Deaconesses, and of the Order of the Red Cross, being described on each occasion by a member of its own organization. "The Poor and Criminal of a Great City" was the subject of the first meeting, addressed by H. R. Cooley, City Director of Charities; and Judge Addams of the Juvenile Court gave an address upon another occasion. The third afternoon of each month was devoted to a consideration of the World's Liberal Religions, in preparation for the International Conference in September, making use of the very fine leaflet prepared by the Study Class Committee of the Alliance. Most interesting and inspiring afternoons have resulted from the careful preparation for these meetings by Alliance members.

The Branch of *Salem* has lost several valuable members by removal from the city, but the little band of twenty women have met regularly every two weeks and have had a varied literary program. At each meeting there has been a reading from Emerson, then a study of Bible Women, one or more being selected for each day, and then to close the program a report of Science Notes, each time in charge of a different Alliance member. The reception to the new minister, Mr. Doremus, was in charge of the Aliance Branch.

Alice D. Bradley, Director.

Rock Rapids, Ia.—The little Branch at Rock Rapids, Iowa, has shown what a few earnest, devoted, consecrated women can do. This small Branch, numbering nine at the present time, I think, has been instrumental in keeping alive the church through many discouragements and drawbacks. The Fellowship of the National Alliance has done much to strengthen and cheer these faithful women. The secretary of this little band writes that "Rev. Hills dropped from the clouds, as it were," and is preaching at Rock Rapids and Luverne, Iowa and Adrian, Minn. This loyal little Branch has never failed to send a report when asked for one. The writer would commend this Branch of brave women to other Branches.

Davenport.—The Davenport Branch is thoroughly alive in all its departments of work. The secretary of this Branch reports the proceeds of their Annual Fair as $708.48, also a church supper gotten up entirely by the gentlemen, from which entertainment, $40.00 was netted. The Sunday School cleared $25 from a Valentine Festival. This Branch has given $85 for missionary purposes. It has contributed to other Branches asking aid. It has sent clothing as well as money to the south. It has subscribed for ten copies of Western Newsletter.

Humboldt.—Humboldt Unity Circle has done little this winter aside from keeping up its regular meetings. These meetings have been well attended. Rev. Marion Murdock, who filled the Humboldt pulpit through the winter, has been a real inspiration and help in keeping up the high order of the Circle meetings. Much interest has been created from the discussion of current events. The pageantry of public events is so imposing that no society can lack topics for thought or discussion. Only one entertainment has been given by Unity Circle since the Fair in November. The Peddlers Parade was given in January which brought to the Circle and the Y. P. S. U. the sum of $46.00. The Humboldt Circle is looking forward eagerly to the coming of Mr. and Mrs. Tupper—Humboldt's new minister and wife.

Iowa City.—Owing to the sale of the Unitarian Church building to the State University a year ago, the Iowa City Church is at present without a church home and without a minister. The Women's Alliance, however, has held its regular program and business meetings the first Friday in each month throughout the year. Unitarian Women have been the general subject for the year's study and very inspiring have these reviews of the life and work of the pioneer women in Unitarianism proved to be. In addition to the routine business of the organization, the Alliance has arranged for a number of services. The Rev. Eleanor E. Gordon has been with us for two parlor meetings and through the kindness of the Congregational Church, we are enabled to hold a real church service on March the third on the occasion of the visit of the Secretary of the Western Conference —the Rev. Wilson M. Backus. We are looking forward hopefully for the coming year and the Alliance expects to do what it can in the Re-awakening that will come with a new church building and the attendant reorganization.

Keokuk, Iowa.—Reports metings every Monday afternoon with business meetings of about half an hour, then fifteen minutes for social intercourse, followed by program. Excellent programs have been carried out, consisting of current events, book reviews, history of early Unitarianism and the Lives of the Founders of our Faith, ending this season with a musical. Every other Monday meetings held in church parlors, these meetings given to denominational topics, alternating with meetings held at homes of the members at which more attention is given to the social features. Successful Christmas and Easter sales and supper, two markets and one lecture have all brought added receipts to the treasury. The Unity Circle Art Class has grown to sixty-seven enthusiastic members,

Continued on Supplement.

Continued from Page Eight.

meeting in the church every Thursday evening under the leadership of the minister, Dr. Morse.

Resolved, that the salary of Wilson M. Backus, the present secretary of the Conference, be increased from $2,500 to $3,00 per year.

Kansas City, Mo.—Our Branch has thirty members. We have two all-day meetings each month devoted to sewing, largely aprons and rugs for our Christmas and Easter sales. Lunch at fifteen cents each is a feature. We have had also a Bible Study Class on these days which has created much interest. In the fall, we began the study of the Liberal Movement in Foreign Countries. These studies have occupied one afternoon each month, our minister, his wife and some of our members have taken part as well as the Universalist minister and two gentlemen from out of town have given lectures. We have raised $583.68 in various ways, $200 of which has been paid toward the Ministers' salary thereby lessening the sum asked of the Missionary Fund.

The last Friday of the month, during five months of the year, the Ladies give a dinner for the Parish. So we meet in some way every Friday and that day is sacred to Alliance work by every member.

Saint Joseph.—I received your letter and thank you very much for your kind wish for the prosperity of our Branch. I was sorry not to meet you at the Conference in Kansas City last fall. We have had a very pleasant year in the St. Joseph Branch. We have met once in two weeks making aprons and other sewing. We meet at the homes of the members twice in each place. Refreshments are served by the hostess and the attendance has been good—quite often—neighbors and friends coming to work with us. We have fourteen members.

The Associate Alliance met with us in January and we enjoyed the ladies very much. I hope that we may do our part to make the Associate Alliance a success as it brings the Branches in touch with each other and inspires up to new effort.

St. Louis.—The Women's Alliance of Unity Church of St. Louis is nearing the close of a succsesful year. The Study class continued its program of Liberal Religions. In November, an afternoon was devoted to Erasmus. In February, Mr. Dodson spoke on "The Religious Situation in France." In March, Mr. Learned gave a talk on "Religions of Japan," and on April 5th, we are to consider Mexico from the same point of view. At our Annual Neighborhood Meeting in May, we expect Mr. Wendte to give a lecture on the International Conference, in Boston.

The practical side of our work has been successful also. The usual bazaar was held in November and the same amount of work for local Charities has been accomplished. In May, we sent $50 worth of clothing to San Francisco, and in the fall, a large box of second-hand clothing to the same place.

Our attendance has been large and much interest shown. We attended a Neighborhood meting at Alton in November and another at the Church of the Messiah (St. Louis) in January. These meetings are most pleasant and profitable, always.

St. Louis.—The Elliot Branch of the Alliance, Church of the Messiah, has 104 members. President Mrs. J. W. Day, 320 North Newstead Ave.; First Vice President, Mrs. H. E. Howland, 4141 West Belle Place; Secretary, Mrs. A. E. Mooney, 11 Parkland Place; Treasurer, Mrs. Fritz Nisbet, 4035 Morgan Street; Chairman Cheerful Letter Committee, Mrs. J. Hal Lynch, Clayton, Mo.

Elliott Branch includes all the Women's organizations of the church. Committees: Social, Literary, Sunday School, Charities, Sewing Society, Sunday School Entertainment, Domestic, Decoration, Persis, Elliot Fountain, National Alliance, Service, Church, Cheerful Letter, Mission House Board, and P. O. Mission, Sewing Meetings are held every Thursday and Alliance Meetings the third Thursday in each month from October to May.

The Alliance has enjoyed a course of lectures by the pastor, Mr. J. W. Day, on the Higher Criticism of the New Testament, as its literary program for the year. The last report of the Mission House Board shows 37 children in the Mission Home and all well. As we are without a church to hold entertainments this year, a number of very pleasant and paying entertainments, differing in character according to the pleasure of the hostess have been given during the year, to raise money and promote sociability for the Alliance. A Church Market has been maintained and proved quite satisfactory. The young people of the church gave two successful plays in one evening netting $161.75 for a free bed in the Childrens' Hospital. About 175 garments have been completed up to date by the Sewing Society. We have also responded to a number of appeals from other branches for articles for sale and fairs.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The year's work of the Indianapolis Alliance Branch, comprises the following events besides the two regular meetings each month, one for business and for a literary program and social hour. Easter sale and supper, two church socials, musical entertainments, a cake, and pie and doughnut sale on the day before Thanksgiving, when our customers stood socially talking in the church parlor while the purchases were being cooked in the adjoining kitchen. Supper for the members at the Annual meeting of the church. Four suppers given to raise money; a doll sale in a down town store, only made successful by the exceptional courtesy of one of the big houses of the city; a course of four lectures for which no tickets were sold, but about 500 were distributed. An announcement was made at each lecture of the purpose of the cause and contributions invited to drop into a basket at the door. This proved very much easier than selling tickets and yielding nearly as much in return; a reception was tendered the parish at the time of the visit of Rev. Thomas Van Ness, who gave a splendid lecture in the church and made many friends for himself and for Unitarianism; ten subscriptions were sent to the Western Conference News Letter and three delegates attended the meeting of the Conference in Chicago, the expense of one being paid; summer pledges to earn a dollar were given; the Alliance joined the Indianapolis Social Council of women, an active reform club in the city; six dollars were sent to the famine sufferers in China. Gifts were sent to the Day Nursery Christmas tree; eighteen white aprons were sent to the Old Ladies Home; each one prettily tied and marked with the recipients' name; a committee of two took orders for plants at Easter time and had the use of them for decorating the church on Easter Sunday. They were delivered to the owners after the service; one delegate went to the Michigan and Northen Ohio Conference and one to the Isles of Shoales meetings.

Elizabeth G. Wicks, Secretary.